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MANDAN, HIDATSA, & ARIKARA NATION*Three Affiliated Tribes • Fort Berthold Indian Reservation*

404 Frontage Road • New Town, North Dakota 58763-9402

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OCT - 4 2002

TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

(701) 627-4781

Fax (701) 627-3805

NATIONAL CONGRESSIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**IN THE MATTER OF: NOMINATION FOR UNIVERSAL SERVICE
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
CC DOCKET NOS. 97-21 AND 96-45**

Dear Universal Service Administrative Company:

On behalf of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) I am pleased to nominate Karen Buller for reappointment to a position on the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Ms. Buller has served with distinction since May 17, 2001 as a Director representing low-income consumers.

Ms. Buller, a member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma is the Founder, President and CEO of the National Indian Telecommunications Institute in Santa Fe, NM. She is a nationally recognized and respected leader in telecommunications in Indian Country. Native Americans are the most underserved group of Americans with the least amount of technology at their disposal. This is made worse by the fact that they have little or no voice when policy makers determine their fate.

NITI is a non-profit organization in the United States that focuses full time on telecommunications needs of Native Americans. NITI is staffed by Native Americans and governed by Native leaders of diverse tribes. It is from a sense of self-determination and honoring Traditional Native Thought that NITI serves and makes a path for Native Americans in telecommunications concerns. Karen's work in this organization has brought the needs of Native people and access to technology to the forefront of many government and private agencies agendas. We in Indian Country are proud to have one of our own representing us on USAC's Low Income, High Cost Committee.

NCAI was founded almost 60 years ago with the mission of stressing the need for unity and cooperation among tribal governments for the protection of their treaty and sovereign rights. Since 1944, the National Congress of American Indians has been working to inform the public and Congress on the governmental rights of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Over a half a century later, our goals remain unchanged. NCAI has grown over the years from its modest beginnings of 100 people to include 250 member tribes from throughout the United States. Now serving as the major national tribal government organization, NCAI is positioned to monitor federal policy and coordinated efforts to

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inform federal decisions that affect tribal government interests. NCAI as well the rest of Indian Country will benefit greatly from Karen representation on your Board.

NCAI enthusiastically supports Karen Buller's reappointment to the USAC Low Income, High Cost Committee. Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns or would like to discuss Karen's qualifications further.

Sincerely,



Tex G. Hall
Chairman, Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation
President, National Congress of American Indians